National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress National Preserve Florida



Big Cypress Press Release 05/03/2011 Jarhead Fire Update

Southwest Area Incident Management Team Incident Commander: Dugger Hughes

Public Information Officer: Jim Payne, 602-803-4270 (cell) Bob DeGross, 239-695-1107

Fire Facts:

Date started: 04/27/2011 Location: Center of Big Cypress National Preserve
Percent Contained: 15% Estimated Containment Date: none at this time
Cause: lightning Size: approximately 12,150 acres (as of noon 5/2/11)

Number of Personnel: 177 Injuries to Date: one (minor)
Equipment: four fire suppression swamp buggies, five Type 6 Engines

Aircraft: two Type 1 and two Type 2 helicopters

General Information/Announcements:

Yesterday, the extreme southwest corner of the fire advanced west to Monument Trail approximately one mile north of the Skillet North Trail and Monument Trail junction. On the east side, a burnout operation was completed along the Oasis Trail in the general area between the Little Buckhorn and Murphy camps.

The National Park Service has established incident priorities that include firefighter safety, protecting private property, threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and natural and cultural resources. NPS resource advisors will work with crews to assess resource impacts and appropriate firefighting tactics.

Today's Activity:

Crews are holding and monitoring the northeastern perimeter of the fire. Aerial ignition will be utilized on the southeastern flank of the fire to burn out fuel between the fire's edge and Oasis Trail. Also, burnout operations will be conducted on the westernmost side of the fire between Monument and Buckskin Trails. Crews will continue structure protection at Hustead camp. The northwestern edge of the fire exhibits little activity and will be monitored.

Closures/Advisories:

All primary and secondary trails in the vicinity of the fire are closed to the public. The closure encompasses all areas west of Oasis Visitor Center, and has expanded west to Turner River Road, south of I-75 and north of U.S. 41. This closure includes the Florida National Scenic Trail within the area and the Oasis ORV access.

Public Safety Message:

Please be aware of and observe area closures in effect due to aerial and firefighting operations. Drivers on U.S. 41 may experience smoke and should exercise extreme caution while driving. Please slow down as firefighting equipment and staff are using U.S. 41.

Partners/Cooperators

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Everglades National Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Ochopee Fire District, Everglades City Fire District, Florida Division of Forestry, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Collier County Emergency Operations Center.

The Southwest Area Incident Management Team took responsibility for fire suppression on 5/1/2011. The team is managing the fire under the direction of Big Cypress National Preserve, a unit of the National Park Service.

For More Information

http://www.nps.gov/bicy/naturescience/fire-activity-and-related-closures.htm http://www.nps.gov/fire/

http://www.inciweb.org/